

opc Bulletin

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE OVERSEAS PRESS CLUB OF AMERICA, NEW YORK, NY • DECEMBER 1999

New Century, New Directions For Voice of America

by Sonya K. Fry

Sanford (Sandy) Ungar became the Director of the Voice of America in June, 1999. He is responsible for over 900 hours of broadcasting each week to some 91 million people around the world. With only a short time in the position, he is now ready to announce his plans for taking the VOA in a new direction in the new millennium.

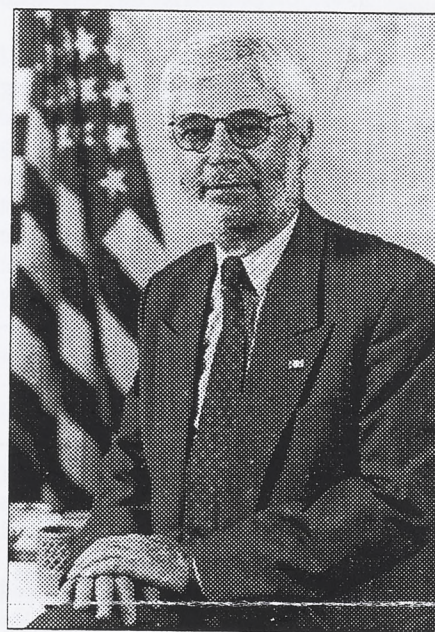
On Monday evening, December 13, 1999 he will speak about his plans for the future of the Voice of America to the Overseas Press Club and the Foreign Policy Association.

Sandy Ungar's career in journalism has been long and impressive. Prior to this new directorship, he was dean of the School of Communication at American University in Washington, DC for 13 years and in 1995 he authored the book "Fresh Blood: The New American Immigrants" (Simon and Schuster). A previous book, "The Papers and the Papers: An account of the Legal and Political Battle over the Pentagon Papers," won the George Polk Award in 1973. In the early '80s he was host of several programs on NPR, including "All Things Considered."

In addition, he has been Washington editor of *The Atlantic*, managing editor of *Foreign Policy* magazine, and a staff writer for *The Washington Post*. He was a correspondent for UPI in Paris, for *Newsweek* in Nairobi and a contributor to *The Economist*. He is frequently on television as a commentator or moderator.

Mr. Ungar will be introduced by Michael H. Jordan, former chairman of the CBS Corporation, who is on the Board of the Foreign Policy Association.

The lecture will be held at Club Quarters, 40 West 45 Street, with a reception beginning at 6pm. Please call the OPC at (212) 626-9220 for reservations.



Sandy Ungar

Web Readers Are Winning the News War

by Janice Castro

Readers are benefiting from expanded international coverage on the Web as a news war shapes up among major websites battling for enough market share to become profitable.

That was one of the conclusions of a lively debate about the quality of international news coverage on the Web, co-hosted by the Overseas Press Club and the Online News Association at OPC headquarters on November 11. As editors from MSNBC.com, TIME.com, the *Financial Times* site FT.com, abcnews.com and thestreet.com described their international efforts, it was clear that global coverage is alive and well on the Web, though it is not yet self-supporting.

Moderator Janice Castro, former TIME.com managing editor and now editorial director of Britannica.com, noted that news organizations are trying

harder to serve the Web audience as more readers gravitate to that medium for information. To win them, Internet publishers are working to present the news in compelling ways, offering their readers database tools, and interactive maps, charts and photography, along with more coverage from abroad. FT.com Editor Paul Maidment agreed, adding that his site appeals to readers outside the U.S. who perceive American news organizations "as leading the charge for the State Department." His competitor Jamie Heller of Manhattan-based thestreet.com, the only editor on the panel with a paid subscription site, and no legacy news parent in another medium supporting her operations, argued that she must provide her 90,000 subscribers higher quality information than the multitude of free news sites they could easily choose. And so the

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OPC AWARDS ENTRY FORM

OPC Protests 21 Press Freedom Violations in September and October

by Larry Martz
and Norman A. Schorr

Freedom of the Press Committee

The war on press freedom continued on many fronts in 1999.

While there have been signs of improved and heightened understanding and support for the concept of freedom of the press, there have also been disturbing reports of rampant abuse. Some governments proclaim freedom of the press, but their actions belie their words. In these countries, critical reports on government corruption are followed too often by physical attacks, arrests and prison sentences for the journalists and shutdowns of newspapers, radio and TV stations.

In other countries, criminal and civil libel and defamation suits are filed wantonly to punish journalists and media for critical articles written or broadcast. As always, there is non-stop use of physical force, violence, kidnapping and murder.

During the months of September and October alone, the OPC Freedom of the Press Committee issued 21 protests—a record number—on behalf of journalists and media in 18 countries whose rights were being abused.

In four cases in which the OPC and other press advocacy groups dispatched protests and appeals, the imprisoned journalists have been released as this report goes to press.

Following are brief synopses of cases

that the OPC Freedom of the Press Committee has protested:

KAZAKHSTAN. The editor-in-chief of an opposition weekly was blackmailed and harassed following a physical assault on the paper's offices.

CROATIA. Independent newspapers are facing more than 600 civil lawsuits; the criminally prosecuted "sin" for one editor was writing a story telling that the country's president did not disclose his wife's US\$150,000 bank account in his required financial report.

UKRAINE. Four independent TV stations were shut down by the government.

EGYPT. Three journalists charged with defamation were sentenced to two-year prison terms.

INDONESIA. A Dutch freelance reporter was murdered while on assignment in East Timor for *Financial Times*, *Christian Science Monitor* and a Dutch newspaper. Two other journalists were ambushed. In other incidents, Supriadi, a reporter with the daily *Medan Pos*, was abducted from his home and brutally murdered; the home of Sjamsul Kahar, chief editor of a daily paper in Aceh province, was physically attacked almost weekly since May and American journalist Amy Goodman with Pacifica Radio was barred from entering Indonesia.

IRAN. The country's leading moderate daily was banned and its director

barred from journalism for five years. This was the fourth pro-reform daily shut down in 1999. Also, Kazem Shokri, editor of *Emrooz*, was arrested; Mohammad Mousaavi Khoenila, editor and publisher of the pro-reform *Salam*, was convicted for an article deemed to be insulting to Islam.

ENGLAND. A British judge threatened a reporter with prison unless he disclosed materials gathered in confidence.

KENYA. A newspaper editor was jailed and sentenced to six months for reporting alleged corruption. After international protests, including OPC's, he received a presidential pardon.

COLOMBIA. Journalist Jaime Garcon was murdered.

PHILIPPINES. The advertising boycott of the country's largest daily, *Philippine Daily Inquirer*, continued in force, reportedly instigated by President Estrada.

BULGARIA. The OPC challenged Bulgaria president's claim of press freedom in that country.

RUSSIA. Military journalist Grigory Pasko was convicted of providing classified information to Japanese media. He was acquitted of espionage after 18 months in a punishment cell.

BELARUS. There was an outpouring of defamation cases brought against independent newspapers. Example: in a coun-

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Journalism Students Discuss the Web

A number of undergraduate journalism students from New York University attended the November 11 OPC panel discussion on foreign reporting on the Web. We asked them how Web issues raised by the panel affected their vision of their journalism careers. Here are some excerpts:

Elizabeth Laurie, sophomore, studying Russian.

Back in the real world, I am afraid there will not even be room for me at a foreign desk. The quality of foreign reporting I see has also declined. Unless there is an international crisis, most foreign reporting is reduced to a few blurb paragraphs put together from information from a wire service...

If I can live in another country and learn the language well enough to report for those in and out of the country, I can use the Internet to report to thousands. With a Web site that can be translated in to different languages, there is a chance that the idea of the "domestic audience" will disappear.

Tom Reiter, sophomore, writing a book about his upstate New York childhood.

My personal interest in news reporting began when I did layout for my high school newspaper. I loved the design element needed to make the photos, graphics, and text work together to attract the

eyes of the readers. The Internet provides for an even greater ability to please the eye. With the use of video and sound, the designers can stimulate several of the viewers' senses at once. The step that goes further than television is that the users can respond to the images.

Christine Nenadovic, junior, juggles three journalism jobs.

With online publications, issues of inaccuracy arise, due to the great speed at which content will be posted on the Web. Less time is available to fact-check content. It is just one additional issue to tackle due to the nature of the medium.

Currently I work for a Web company, and I see firsthand how quickly informations is dispersed on to the site. I also work for a publication that is sold at newsstands, and I see how the differences in the medium of publication affect the work process at both companies.

Jules Goins, sophomore, interested in becoming a foreign correspondent.

Web journalism will change the way I report the news, in four main ways.

One is that journalists like myself will be expected to constantly update our stories, to keep pace with the ever-changing live nature of the internet.

Second, the audience and types of stories will deviate from the American and Euro centric nature of today, to a more global view.

Next, journalists will have to serve two masters. They will have to know how to report for both the Web and another medium, like television.

Finally, sources will come under greater scrutiny from any audience whose main defining feature is a need for self-determination of information, and where anyone with a computer and information can call himself or herself a "journalist."

Joe Anclien, junior, has decided not to pursue a career in journalism.

I will probably do something in business. And, partly due to the Internet, most avenues of business seem to be growing more international. As Paul Maidmont of the *Financial Times* pointed out, the global convergence of business has become a reality more quickly than any other entity.

Apurva Mehrotra, sophomore, born to Indian parents and raised in the U.S. South.

As a journalist, one of my main goals would be to be able to experience and tell about different parts of the world. With foreign journalism on the Web increasing the way it is, you don't have to work for a company based in a certain country in order to work in that country. While even now, journalists specialize in foreign reporting and are sent to a variety of places to do their work, the increase in journalism on the Web would allow for more stable jobs in locations outside the base of the Web site.

PRESS FREEDOM

(Continued from Page 2)

try where \$100 is average monthly pay for journalists, one paper was ordered to pay US\$8,000 for allegedly defaming a judge.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO. Three employees of *L'Alarme* newspaper were arrested and tortured. They have been released. Also, two reporters were denied the right to travel from the town of Bukavu, limiting their ability to cover the news.

SRI LANKA. A Tamil-language newspaper in Jaffna suffered a hand grenade attack.

PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY. The host of a TV program on which a Palestinian prisoner criticized the Authority, was arrested, kept hooded for three days and detained. Later, he was released.

HONDURAS. Two TV journalists were subjected to harassment and intimidation in reprisal for critical coverage of police and military.

S. KOREA. The government used multiple tax audits to harass the newspaper *Joongang Ilbo*.

In November, 1999, protests were underway to Pakistan, Hong Kong, Venezuela, Israel, South Africa, Yugoslavia and six other nations. As of this writing, the OPC has filed a total of more than 80 protests so far this year.

In addition to the signers of this article, other members of the OPC Freedom of the Press Committee responsible for the current flood of activity are Kevin McDermott, Bob Sullivan and John Martin of ABC News in Washington, the newest member of the committee.

NEWS WAR

(Continued from Page 1)

Street is expanding its bureaus in Europe in hope of capturing enough market share (some of it from FT.com) to become profitable via subscriptions and advertising.

For now, readers are winning the news war. Moreover, freed of the enormous costs of paper and postage that burden newspapers and magazines, or the corresponding costs of supporting television news crews, Web reporting is less costly to produce. As NYU journalism student Elizabeth Laurie noted after listening to the panel, the Internet makes it possible for anyone to carry a laptop into a country and publish news over phone lines. Best of all, in a medium where nearly everyone can be a publisher, international information is bound to flow more freely.

PEOPLE...with Al Kaff

ALEXANDRIA, Virginia: When he was editor in chief of *Pacific Stars & Stripes* in Tokyo, 1967-1969, **Peter Sweers**, then a U.S. Army colonel, says he was constantly criticized by generals for running what he believed was a credible newspaper rather than censoring the news. "The generals harassed me till I just decided it was not worth the effort and retired," Sweers told the *Bulletin* in November. Since leaving the U.S. Army, he's filled a variety of jobs: teaching at Murray State University in Kentucky; handling public relations for the Los Angeles School District and working with the courts during school desegregation; teaching at Gonzaga University in Spokane, Washington; representing the Santa Monica, California, School District in collective bargaining with its teachers; and managing employee relations at Peterbilt, makers of heavy duty trucks. Now living in Alexandria, Sweers has been conducting research on "Hanoi Hatti," a woman who broadcast North Vietnamese propaganda to U.S. troops during the Vietnam War. "I wrote to her and she sent me her biography, and I've been in touch with men, including some of our POWs, who heard her broadcasts," he said. Meanwhile, Sweers reported that **John Baker**, his managing editor at *Stars & Stripes*, recently retired in France after working for the *San Francisco Examiner*, *San Jose Mercury* and the *International Herald Tribune* in Paris.

ATLANTA: Motherhood won't keep **Christiane Amanpour** from covering wars and strife around the world. Amanpour, CNN's chief international correspondent, is expecting her first child in April (November *Bulletin*). "I want—deeply want—to continue doing what I do," she told the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*. "I can't imagine not doing it. It's my passion. It's my mission." But Amanpour, who is married to **Jamie Rubin**, the U.S. State Department spokesman, will take maternity leave.

On Nov. 15, **Shelby Coffey III** became president of CNNfn, the financial news channel operated by Cable News Network. A former editor at *The Washington Post*, *U.S. News & World Report*, *Dallas Times Herald* and the *Los Angeles*



Shelby Coffey III

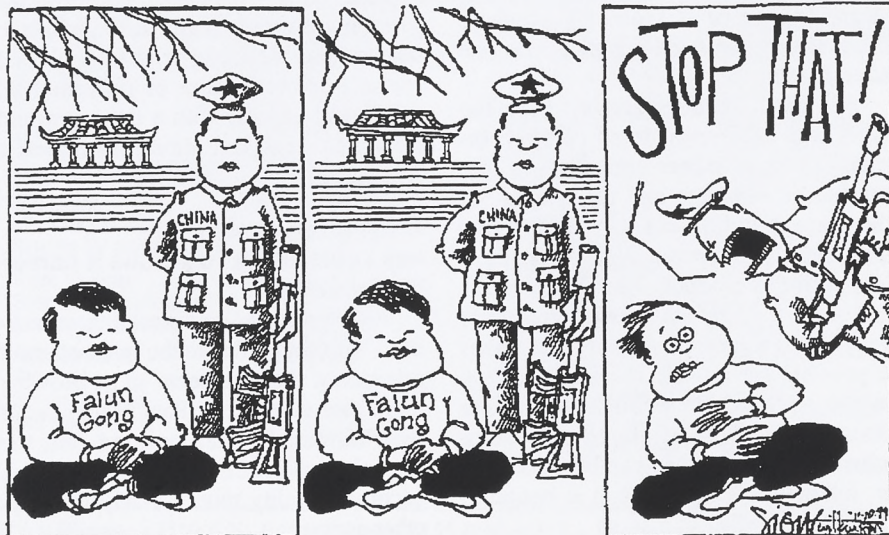
He succeeded **Lou Dobbs**, who left the network in June to start his own web site, space.com [July *Bulletin*], as well as reporting for CNBC.

BEIJING: While Chinese police patrolled Tiananmen Square to locate and detain members of the outlawed Falun Gong spiritual movement, some 30 believers arranged what **Erik Eckholm** of *The New York Times* described as "a daring, clandestine meeting with a handful of foreign journalists today [Oct. 28] to appeal for international pressure to halt the government's relentless crackdown." He added: "The seven foreign reporters attending the meeting were spirited by a succession of cars to a suburban location. In a country where information is usually tightly controlled, the ability of the group to organize such an audacious meeting itself suggested why Communist leaders feel threatened." *The Times* report said: "Falun Gong members described a worsening pattern of harassment, arrests and even physical abuse since their movement was banned in July." On Nov. 3,

Times, he had been executive vice president of ABC News since last year. Quoting "insiders," New York's *Daily News* said Coffey, 53, is being paid about \$700,000 a year to manage CNNfn's 370 news staffers.

Beijing police questioned several of the reporters who attended the news conference, including Eckholm, who reported: "Public Security Bureau officials warned the reporters...that because Falun Gong was banned in July, interviewing members of the spiritual movement is illegal. The officials also sought information about the Chinese participants in the news conference, who are quite likely to face serious criminal charges if they are arrested." The Falun Gong believers who met the reporters included two policemen, both Communist Party members from Liaoning Province in Northeastern China, who said they had been forced by their superiors to choose between their jobs or Falun Gong. *The Washington Post* reported that Police Officer She Jingsheng, who was arrested after his press interview, "became the first member of China's public security apparatus to openly call for the Chinese government to end its persecutions of the exercise and meditation group."

BERKELEY, California: **Pham-Duy Nguyen**, who won the OPC Foundation's 1999 Alexander Kendrick Scholarship, now is writing a magazine article on her reporting trip this summer to Vietnam that was marred by two setbacks. First, Vietnam rejected her application for a journalist visa. "The reason they gave me was that they were understaffed, and they said they always needed someone to follow a journalist around," Pham told the *Bulletin*. Next, she had planned to work in the Hanoi bureau of the San Jose, California, *Mercury News*. But when she arrived in Hanoi from Saigon, the San Jose correspondent had left on an emergency trip to Australia.



SIGNE WILKINSON, PHILADELPHIA DAILY NEWS; WASHINGTON POST WRITERS GROUP

But she conducted several interviews, including one with a Vietnamese plastic surgeon. His patients include Vietnamese women who live in the United States but return to Vietnam for eye and nose jobs because the procedures cost more in America. The interview was not totally successful. "The doctor refused to speak in Vietnamese, insisting on talking to me in English, and his English wasn't very good," Pham said. Now working on a master's degree in journalism at the University of California at Berkeley, Pham's thesis advisor told her that the draft of her Vietnam magazine article was good. "She thinks it's written in a different voice than most such articles, and I'm shooting for a high magazine," the 25-year-old student said.

BELFAST, Northern Ireland: Reversing an earlier decision, Northern Ireland's chief justice ruled in October that Belfast journalist **Ed Moloney** could not be forced to give police his notes of a 1990 interview with a former Protestant paramilitary man charged in the 1980 murder of a Catholic human rights lawyer. Sir Robert Carswell, Northern Ireland's Lord Chief Justice, threw out a court decision ordering Moloney to hand over his notes to police. "The killing attracted international attention because of charges that the Royal Ulster Constabulary may have helped the murderer,"

Warren Hoge of *The New York Times* reported.

BOGOTA: Left-wing guerrillas in Colombia's civil strife have withdrawn the immunity they once granted to the press and now are kidnapping journalists who attempt to cover their activities, **Larry Rohter** of *The New York Times* reported in November. And newsmen are being murdered. Accepting an invitation from the rebel National Liberation Army to attend a news conference near Cali, Reuters photographer **Henry Romero**, 42, was abducted for identifying a commander involved in the group's kidnapping of more than 160 churchgoers. He was released a few days later. Another rebel group, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, kidnapped a newspaper reporter and staff members of Colombia's two main broadcast networks while they were traveling to cover a battle. Newsmen **Roberto Julio Torres**, 38, was shot and killed in October after being kidnapped from his home. Authorities said he lived in an area dominated by right-wing paramilitary gangs. Since 1980, more than 120 Colombian journalists have been murdered, and Torres was the fourth to be killed in the two months leading up to his slaying, the Committee to Protect Journalists said. **Marylene Smeets**, the Committee's Latin American coordinator, said, "Over the past six

months or so, as the peace negotiations have been getting under way, there has been a worrisome escalation in attacks on press freedom." She blamed the attacks on "the fact that the parties sitting down at the negotiating table want to have their point of view heard as much as possible and are willing to force journalists to hear that point of view."

BOSNIA: **Zeljko Kopanja**, editor-in-chief of the independent newspaper *Nezavisne Novine* in the Serb-run part of Bosnia, was seriously wounded in October when a bomb exploded as he opened his car door. Surgeons amputated both his legs.

HONG KONG: By an overwhelming majority on Nov. 10, members of our reciprocal Foreign Correspondents' Club (FCC) of Hong Kong defeated a resolution to remove President **Philip Segal** from office [November *Bulletin*]. Members voted 299-63 against the resolution "That Philip Segal be removed from the Board of Governors." Because correspondent, journalist and associate members are entitled to different numbers of votes, the vote count favored Segal 3,179-327. Segal, an *International Herald Tribune* correspondent, was elected unopposed to a one-year term in May. Several weeks later, 25 members signed a no-confidence petition against Segal, but the club's solicitor found the resolution was ineffective under Hong Kong's Companies Act. To clear the air, the FCC board called for a vote at a general meeting. Reporting on the affair, **Charlotte Parsons** wrote in the *South China Morning Post*, a Hong Kong daily, that "members flocked to their club for the special vote," adding: "Speakers were booed, abuse was hurled, and a heckler was threatened with violence. All in all, a fairly civilized Foreign Correspondents' Club meeting."

CPJ Honors Five Journalists For Courage and Independence

The Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) honored five journalists—from Colombia, Cuba, Kosovo and Pakistan—"for their courage and independence in reporting the news" at a dinner November 23 at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York.

The five winners of the 1999 International Press Freedom Awards are:

Maria Cristina Caballero, a reporter for Colombia's weekly *Semana*, "who received frequent death threats as a result of her work covering the country's escalating civil war." She was forced to flee to Cambridge, Mass., where she is working on a book about the war.

Jesus Joel Diaz Hernandez, who is serving a four-year prison sentence in Cuba for starting an independent news agency.

Baton Haxhiu, editor of Kosovo's leading independent newspaper, *Koha Ditore*, "which he continued to publish from exile after eluding Serbian police." Haxhiu is now back in Kosovo, but has been denounced as a traitor by a press agency linked to the Kosovo Liberation Army.

Jugnu Moshin and Najam Sethi, publisher and editor of *The Friday Times* in Lahore, Pakistan. The CPJ said last spring Sethi was beaten, abducted and jailed after the paper published charges of government corruption.

Also honored at the dinner was Don Hewitt, executive producer of CBS' "60 Minutes", recipient of the Burton Benjamin Memorial Award. Benjamin, who died in 1988, was a CBS News Senior Producer and former CPJ chairman.

HONOLULU: The November *Bulletin's* "People" column said *The Honolulu Star Bulletin* closed Oct. 30, leaving the city with only one daily, *The Honolulu Advertiser*. Founded in 1882, *The Star Bulletin* announced in September it would close at the end of October. But it never happened. Instead, the state stepped in to keep Honolulu from becoming a one-newspaper town. Ruling on a state motion, Federal Judge Alan Kay issued a preliminary injunction

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PEOPLE

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against the closure, contending it violated the Newspaper Preservation Act. The 1970 Federal law waives antitrust rules so as to allow newspapers to share some operating expenses in order to preserve competition. Since 1962, the Honolulu papers shared production, advertising and distribution costs but operated separate newsrooms. Under the closing agreement, the Gannett Company, owners of the morning *Advertiser*, circulation 105,000, would pay \$26.5 million to Liberty Newspapers, owners of the afternoon *Star Bulletin*, circulation 65,000, to end the joint operating agreement. Hawaii's attorney general argued that the payment would violate federal antitrust laws. Gannett's appeal against the

injunction is pending in the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco. Meanwhile, **George Chaplin**, editor in chief of *The Advertiser* for 28 years until his 1986 retirement, told **Todd S. Purdom** of *The New York Times* he doubted *The Star Bulletin* could survive. "Any time this happens, it's a real tragedy and it imposes a real responsibility on the remaining paper to try to fill the gap, which it never adequately can," Chaplin said.

HOUSTON, Texas: In 1944, **Wilmott Ragsdale**, now an OPC member, was a *Time* war correspondent who happened to be carrying a camera at a critical moment. He took the only known pictures of German shore batteries destroying the navigation bridge on the

U.S. battleship *Texas*. The photos were published in *Life*. In October, Ragsdale, who lives in Shelton, Washington, flew to Houston for Time Warner's transfer of those pictures to the USS *Texas*, now a museum.

LONDON: Sponsored by our reciprocal London Press Club and British Airways, an exhibit of 100 British cartoons published over the past century opened at the Victoria and Albert Museum in November and will move to the London Press Club, the Cartoon Art Trust and the University of Kent. In the summer issue of *Press2000*, the Club's journal, Chairman **Dennis Griffiths** recalled his recent visit to the OPC. The journal also reprinted an article by our executive director, **Sonya K. Fry**, from the July *Bulletin* on her attendance at the 10th anniversary meeting in Paris of the European Federation of Press Clubs during which she accepted a reciprocal agreement with the Federation. Fry wrote: "And so with one swoop the OPC solidified existing relationships with Press Clubs in London, Paris, Vienna, Milan and Barcelona and added Geneva, Belgium, Frankfurt, Madrid, Zaragoza, Budapest, Turin, Naples and Sicily."

MENLO PARK, California: **Natasha Riel**, widow of **Eric Riel**, a former executive with UPI in Tokyo, *The Los Angeles Times* and Rupert Murdoch's *Star*, sells residential real estate in upscale neighborhoods.

MINNEAPOLIS: The Textile Center of Minnesota presented its Spun Gold Award to OPC member **Margot Auerbacher Siegel** in October "for her lifetime dedication to the education and promotion of fashion design." The citation added: "Margot has made tremendous contributions to the field throughout the country. As a journalist Margot has used her flair for dramatizing fashion with a unique, sublime and elegant style that has brought wearable art into the homes and offices of America."



Margot Auerbacher Siegel

Siegel worked as a columnist and correspondent for Fairchild Publications and was an editor of *Women's Wear Daily* in New York. A recent columnist for

Welcome to Our New Members

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Communications
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associate overseas

Sandra Burton

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Editor/Writer/Publisher
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associate non resident

Skyway News, she now is curator of an exhibition, "Fashion Lives, Fashion Lives—One Woman's Odyssey," that is scheduled to open next August in the Goldstein Gallery at the University of Minnesota.

NEW YORK: Abe Rosenthal's last op-ed page column for *The New York Times* was published Nov. 5, ending his 55-year career with the newspaper. Neither *The Times*, announcing his departure in a news article and editorial, nor Rosenthal in his final column gave any reason for his leaving. But, answering a *Bulletin* query, an informed source said the paper told Rosenthal that "it was time for a change."

The *New York Post* said the newsman "has gotten the boot from publisher Arthur Ochs Sulzberger Jr." and quoted Rosenthal: "I'm not retiring, but I am leaving the *Times*, or the *Times* is leaving me." Howard Kurtz, *The Washington Post's* media reporter, asked Rosenthal how to characterize his departure. "Sweetheart, you can use any word you want," he replied, and Kurtz used the word "fired." Telling Kurtz "I didn't expect it at all," Rosenthal did not criticize the decision: "I've always detested people who work for an institution a long time and when they leave, throw up all over it." A retired *Times* editor with currently close ties to the newspaper told the *Bulletin* that Rosenthal was given no explanation except that "it was time for a change. After all, he is from a different era. Abe was shocked, but he didn't ask for an explanation."

In his final "On My Mind" column, Rosenthal wrote: "I have no intention of stopping writing, journalistically or otherwise. And I am buoyed by the knowledge that I will be starting over." In a farewell interview by *Times* columnist and former reporter Clyde Haberman, Rosenthal said, "I've seen happier days." Ironically, New York's *Daily News* said Rosenthal fired Haberman in 1966 for slipping "a prank award into a graduation story," but the reporter was hired back 10 years later. The *Daily News* quoted Haberman as saying "that he and Rosenthal had a 'warm' interview and laughed about 'the irony' of Haberman's assignment" to record Rosenthal's last day at *The Times*. Although something of a competitor, the *Daily News* praised Rosenthal in an editorial: "He is an original thinker, a bold leader and a terrific reporter, writer and editor....[He] pro-

New OPC Roundtable



The Admissions Committee: Elinor Griest; George Bookman, chair; and Dwight Sargent go over applications for membership at the new OPC table in the Club Quarters dining room. A special table with OPC sign is reserved daily for members that want to meet other members.

duced the best damned newspaper America ever had." In its editorial, *The Times* lauded Rosenthal for "his commitment to journalism as an essential element in a democratic society."

Rosenthal, 77, whose son, *Times* foreign editor and OPC member Andrew Rosenthal was a Club panelist on Kosovo coverage in June, started his *Times* career as a \$12-a-week campus stringer in 1943 while a student at tuition-free City College of New York. Growing up poor in the Bronx, Rosenthal told Haberman: "Free tuition was



Abe Rosenthal

He covered the United Nations and from 1954-1963 was a correspondent in India, Warsaw, Geneva and Tokyo, winning an OPC award and several citations, and the 1960 Pulitzer Prize for international reporting. The book "Foreign Correspondents in Japan" [Tokyo: Tuttle, 1998], a half-century history of our reciprocal Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan, reports that the Club's June 30, 1963, *sayonara* party for Rosenthal turned wild and ine-

more than I could afford." Rosenthal often said he was proud to have graduated from a common man's college rather than the elite universities that many *Times* editors and reporters attended.

briated guests threw their drinks at a nude picture of Marilyn Monroe, long hanging in the Club's stag bar, while Rosenthal sang: "The working class can kiss my ass, I've got my boss's job at last."

After Japan, he became *The Times'* metropolitan editor, managing editor and executive editor until 1986, when he started his op-ed page column. Commenting on his work abroad, Rosenthal wrote in his final column: "Arrive in a foreign capital for the first time, call a government minister and give just your name. Ensues iciness. But add 'of *The New York Times*,' and you expect to be invited right over and usually are; nice." Born in Canada and moving to the United States in 1926 as a child with his family, Rosenthal once wrote that for several years he did not realize that he was an illegal immigrant because his parents had not applied for U.S. visas. But among mementos that he took from his *Times* office was his framed 1951 U.S. citizenship document that had hung on a wall. "It was, he said with a cough to beat back rising emotions, among his most valuable possessions," Haberman wrote.

◆
Among the passengers on Egyptair Flight 990 that crashed Oct. 31 in the Atlantic Ocean south of Nantucket Island, Massachusetts, killing all 217

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PEOPLE

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people aboard: **Claude Masson**, 58, deputy publisher of *La Presse*, a Montreal daily; and his wife, **Jeannine Bourdages**, 59, who worked in the human resources department of a Montreal television station.



Claude Masson and wife Jeannine Bourdages

◆
OPC member **Walter Cronkite** suggests that U.S. presidential candidates conduct at least one debate on foreign policy. In a letter published in *The New York Times* Nov. 12, Cronkite wrote: "Even as broadcast and most cable networks and many newspapers do not give us enough foreign news to permit us to intelligently exercise our franchises at the polls, presidential candidates with rare exceptions carefully sidestep foreign policy issues. Yet foreign policy has never been more important to the future of the United States and the world." Cronkite was commenting on questions that *Times* columnist **Thomas L. Friedman** suggested be put to Texas Governor George W. Bush after the presidential candidate failed when asked by a Boston TV reporter to name the heads of government in India, Pakistan and Chechnya.

◆
Playing no favorites at its 75th anniversary dinner in November, WNYC, New York City's public radio station, honored all three of America's evening news anchors for their journalistic excellence: **Tom Brokaw**, NBC; **Peter Jennings**, ABC; and OPC member **Dan Rather**, CBS. Each was asked to talk about stories or events that made this year memorable. Rather: "My favorite stories are those where people realize their dreams and help other people. I think what our young men and women did in Kosovo was important, and I hope we don't forget it. I wouldn't say it's my favorite story of the year, but I think it's one of the most important in the context that we lived up to, at least for one short moment, the American idea

and ideal." Jennings: "I'm kind of amazed how much intensity there is about the political campaigns in the press. We're still a year away. It's almost like it's happening next week." Brokaw: "What has been for me a life-changing experience is that I've written books about the generation that was in World War II, 'The Greatest Generation' and a follow-up book, 'The Greatest Generation Speaks.' It's connected me to them in a way that I could not have anticipated. Wherever I go, people of a certain age come to me and say how grateful they are that I told their story."

◆
In November, CBS News apparently outfoxed a Texas court in a First Amendment case that had put **Dan Rather** in the headlines. Rather appeared in Manhattan Supreme Court Nov. 5 after a Texas court ordered CBS to turn over the full transcript of the CBS anchor's jail house interview with a white man accused in the murder of a black man who was chained to a pickup truck and dragged three miles to his death. CBS' "60 Minutes II" aired a portion of Rather's interview in September. Texas prosecutors said they wanted a full transcript to compare what the defendant, Shawn Allen Berry, told Rather with what the suspect told the police.



Shawn Allen Berry broadcast interview, Berry said he tried to stop two other men from beating the victim, but stood by and wet his pants in fear that he would be beaten. The other two men have been tried and sentenced to death. CBS attorneys argued that handing over material that was not broadcast would violate the First Amendment and could compromise journalists' ability to report the news. A Texas judge threatened to jail **Mary Mapes**, a CBS producer in Texas, for refusing to hand over unedited copies of the interview. But on Nov. 10, CBS defused the argument by posting the entire transcript of Rather's interview on the network's web site, effectively giving the information to the Texas court. On Nov. 18, a Jasper, Texas, jury sentenced Berry, 24, to life in prison.

◆
OPC member **Mike Wallace** believes he is portrayed unfairly in "The Insider," the movie about how CBS' "60

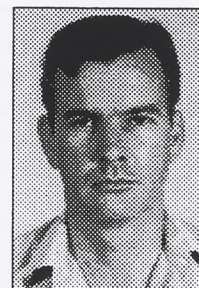
Minutes" responded to corporate pressure four years ago and withdrew its interview with Jeffrey Wigand, former director of research at Brown & Williamson, on the harmful effects of cigarettes. In real life, Wallace conducted that interview. *Time* wrote that Wallace read an early version of the screenplay and asked



Mike Wallace

"for factual corrections and other changes in scenes that make him look vainglorious or blind to journalistic ethics.... But the film sums up Wallace's final position in a single devastating moment after ["60 Minutes" executive producer Don] Hewitt nixes the Wigand piece, when Wallace looks at ["60 Minutes" producer Lowell] Bergman and says briskly, 'I'm with Don on this.'" After the film opened in November, Hewitt said he was pleased that it failed to lead box-office sales. Wallace saw the movie and told **Mitchell Fink**, a New York *Daily News* columnist: "The film is getting what it deserves—a decent burial." *The New York Times* commented: "Shaky docudrama ethics cloud the film's take on '60 Minutes.' But this is an inordinately well-played thriller."

PHNOM PENH: Cambodia's two English-language newspapers, both run by Americans, cover all the nation's news whether the reports are good or bad for the government. But they print no editorials. "I didn't think it was wise to have a foreigner criticizing the situation here," explained OPC member **Michael Hayes**,



Michael Hayes

publisher and editor-in-chief of the *Phnom Penh Post* [October *Bulletin*]. His competitor, **Bernie Krisher**, founder and publisher of *The Cambodian Daily*, said: "When we started, we felt we had a monopoly paper. We didn't want to force our single opinion down people's throats." **Chris Decherd**, *The Daily's* editor-in-chief, added: "That's Bernie's directive [no editorials]. But we irritate the government enough by reporting the truth about what's happening here."

Barry Petersen, who covers Asia for CBS News, wrote about the two newspapers in the October issue of *Brill's Content*. Hayes "complains that the *Daily* is driving him out of business, thanks to Krisher's ability to get donations" of equipment and news services, Petersen wrote. Heidelberg Druckmaschinen AG gave Krisher's newspaper a \$250,000 printing press, and he receives free the news services of *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, Dow Jones News Service, Knight Ridder/Tribune Information Services, DPA and Japan's Kyodo News. But he pays "minimal amounts" to AFP and AP. Unable to afford foreign news, Hayes' *Post* is limited to domestic news. Krisher developed his contacts for free services and equipment while he was a correspondent in Tokyo for *Newsweek* 1962-1980, *Fortune* 1980-1983 and editorial adviser for a Japanese-language newsweekly until 1997.

Meanwhile, Hayes told the *Bulletin* that he would put the OPC on the *Phnom Penh Post's* mailing list if the Club sets up a rack to display newspapers from around the world.

SHENZHEN, China: **Mike Chinoy**, who has covered China for 16 years for CNN, believes that "emphasis



Mike Chinoy

[of TV news] on breaking events and its insatiable appetite for the riveting pictures" is distorting TV coverage of "the most important story to emerge from China in recent years—the country's astonishing process of change." In a report this autumn from Shenzhen, an economic boomtown, to *The Journal*, published by Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism, Chinoy wrote: "In contrast to my first visit in 1973, when the Communist Party micro-managed most details of daily life, the people now have more freedom—to choose where they live, where they work, whom they marry, whether to travel—than at any time since the 1949 revolution.... The pro-democracy student demonstrations and the subsequent army crackdown in Tiananmen Square 10 years ago... helps explain why even as China has changed in the 1990s, the images from 1989, such as the Goddess of Democracy and the

man in front of the tank, continued to shape, and in my view distort, western TV coverage of the country."

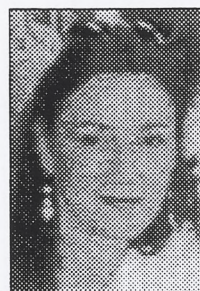
SYDNEY: Our reciprocal Foreign Correspondents' Association, Australia and South Pacific, reported these new members in October: **Robert Lowe** and **Daniel Gilhooley**, New Zealand Press Association; **Tatsuru Amada**, Japan's NHK; **Hajime Kitamura**, TV Asahi of Japan; **Tomoo Kuwahara**, Japan's *Chunichi Shimbun*; and **James M. Hall**, Hong Kong Tourist Bureau.

Meanwhile, **Mike Grenby**, 56, described as dean of Canada's personal finance journalists, moved from Canada to New South Wales with his Australian wife, **Mandy**, and now is teaching at Bond University. He continues to write his award-winning weekly "Money Column," which he started at *The Vancouver Sun* in the 1960s and now is in its 27th year of syndication to Canadian newspapers. Author of eight books, Grenby is planning a book on semi-retirement aimed for baby boomers.



Mike Grenby

The Correspondent, monthly journal of the Foreign Correspondents' Association and edited by **Joëlle Andréoli-Dietrich** of *Le Figaro*, reported that Taiwan journalists created a scene during September's Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation conference in Auckland, New Zealand. The paper said: "The situation [more talk about Timor than economic issues] took a bizarre turn at the post-ministerial press conference when a plethora of Taiwanese journalists monopolized the microphones during question time to launch into long tirades in Chinese about why China should be considered for membership at the WTO



Joëlle Andréoli-Dietrich

[World Trade Organization] and not Chinese Taipei. The harangues were heading to the diplomatically incorrect when the New Zealand Minister for Foreign Affairs, Don McKinnon, put an abrupt end to the questioning."

Sydney journalist **Diana Plater**, who has covered Aboriginal issues in Australia for more than 20 years, is preparing a booklet on Aboriginal protocol, issues and contacts for correspondents at next year's Sydney Olympic Games. Plater will help reporters arrange interviews with Aborigines. Contact her at telephone (61-2) 9389-6337, fax 612-9389-2312 or e-mail plater@fl.net.au



Diana Plater

TOKYO: Japan leads the world in the manufacture of 35-mm. cameras, Japanese tourists rarely leave home without one and at least two collections of historic international news photos will and have been mounted first in Japan. Photos that won the OPC's **Robert Capa Gold Medal** will go on exhibit in the Tokyo Fuji Art Museum next spring and then tour more than 10 Japanese cities. The medal is awarded for "photographic reporting from abroad requiring exceptional courage and enterprise." Capa, a pioneer in photojournalism, was killed in 1954 at age 41 when he stepped on a land mine while accompanying a French patrol south of Hanoi, Vietnam. He gained fame for his coverage of the Spanish Civil War and World War II's Normandy landing. Last year and this year, the first exhibition ever mounted of 130 Pulitzer Prize photos toured Japan and Korea (February *Bulletin*). They were collected and curated by OPC member **Cyma Rubin**.

In October, OPC members **Fukiko Aoki** and her husband, **Pete Hamill**, were in Tokyo from their New York City home for Shichosha's publication in Japanese of his 1994 book "A Drinking Life," an account of how Hamill learned to drink to become a man and his discovery that drinking can destroy a writer's clarity, consciousness and memory. A newspaperman and author of fiction and nonfiction books, including several translated into Japanese, Hamill was interviewed by Tokyo newspapers and TV stations. It's been a busy autumn for Hamill. His latest book, a biography of the Mexican muralist Diego Rivera, was published by Abrams in New York City, and he played the part of a *New York*

PEOPLE

(Continued from Page 9)

Times reporter in "The Insider," a movie from Touchstone Pictures described in the New York item above.

For years, foreigners living and working in Japan have put up with landlords denying them housing, employment contracts that treat them differently from Japanese, fingerprinting to acquire an alien resident's card, and bars, restaurants and hot springs that cater only to Japanese. When he was based in Japan, the *Bulletin's* "People" editor wandered into several Ginza bars only to be told, "This is a private club." But, after six years in Japan, anti-*gaijin* (foreigner) restrictions were too much for **Ana Bortz**, 35, a Brazilian television network reporter. After she was escorted out of a jewelry store because, the owners said,



Ana Bortz

they had a policy of refusing people of her nationality, she went to court and won. "This country has signed international conventions against discrimination but has never wanted to deal with the subject domestically," Bortz told OPC member **Howard W. French** of *The New York Times*. She sued, and Shizuoka District Court awarded her \$14,000 in damages. "This was an illegal act against an individual," Judge Tetsuro So ruled in October, citing Japan's treaty obligations.

WASHINGTON: The AP surprised the Pentagon in September by reporting that early in the Korean War U.S. troops were ordered to demolish two strategic Naktong River bridges while refugees were crossing them, killing hundreds of civilians. AP quoted ex-GIs, Korean witnesses and U.S. military documents in describing the massacre that apparently was not reported in the media at the time. But books written by two wire service reporters who covered the Korean War from its start to the signing of the armistice mention civilian targets at Naktong while U.S. and South Korean troops were being pushed back to the Pusan perimeter. In "The Forgotten War Remembered" [Elizabeth, N.J.: Hollym, 1996], **Bill Shinn**, an AP correspondent during the Korean War, wrote: "Thousands of Korean refugees

were...clamoring to cross the [Naktong] bridge....To make the problem worse, North Korean soldiers and agents disguised in civilian clothes with hidden weapons, tried to cross together with the civilian refugees. Warning cries that the bridge would be blown up did no good....the bridge was blown up. Several hundred Koreans fell to the river with the crumbling bridge." In his book, "Decision in Korea" [New York: McBride, 1954], OPC member **Rutherford (Rud) Poats**, a United Press Korean War reporter, wrote about battles around the Naktong River, mentioning that civilians were forced to serve in the North Korean army: "Allied guns had whittled away the ranks of trained Communist units and forced the North Korean high command to replace soldiers with youngsters and middle-aged men just off the farms. Desperately the Communists poured untrained boys into the line, forced South Koreans from occupied areas to carry their supplies, and even pressed some southerners into front-line military service....Men [U.S. troops] fought on, not for 'the cause' or the defense of South Korea, but for survival and self-respect." In researching the August 1950 battles, AP said that according to declassified Army documents U.S. commanders ordered American troops to shoot civilians because they might be North Korean soldiers disguised in the white clothes worn by Korean peasants. In October, Pentagon and South Korean officials established a panel to investigate the massacre reports.

IN MEMORY

Jacobo Timerman, 76, an Argentine writer and newspaper publisher who was imprisoned, tortured and exiled in the 1970s, died of a heart attack at his home in Buenos Aires Nov. 11. When he was 5, the Timerman family fled from Soviet pogroms in the Ukraine, where he was born, and settled in Buenos Aires. In 1971, he founded *La Opinión*, a left-of-center daily that championed democratic institutions and human rights, and was the newspaper's editor and publisher. After a military junta overthrew President Isabel Perón's government in 1976, right-wing elements



Jacobo Timerman

in the army started harassing and kidnapping Timerman's reporters, and he was arrested in 1977. In *The New York Times*, **Albin Krebs** wrote that Timerman was held "for more than a year, during which he was beaten, given electric shocks to his genitals, put in solitary confinement under humiliating circumstances and interrogated endlessly." After Argentina's Supreme Court twice ordered Timerman's release and Henry A. Kissinger, President Jimmy Carter, Cyrus R. Vance, Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, the Vatican and others protested violation of his human rights, the ruling generals stripped him of his citizenship, confiscated his newspaper and sent him to Israel, where he claimed the Jewish right to citizenship. He described his imprisonment in his 1981 book "Prisoner Without a Name, Cell Without a Number." He returned to Argentina in 1983 after a democratically-elected government replaced the military dictatorship.

Robert L. Schiffer, 79, a former *New York Times* reporter in Europe and speech writer for U.S. delegates to the United Nations, died Nov. 2 in a New York City hospital of complications from a stroke. For *The Times*, Schiffer covered refugees in Europe around the end of World War II and then returned to New York to become director of the Greater New York Israel Bond campaign. He wrote several books including "The Exploding City" [New York: St. Martins, 1989].

Lincoln Haynes, 75, who worked for *Pacific Stars & Stripes* in Tokyo 1959-1961, and for several newspapers in the United States, died Sept. 19 after being taken off life support and one day after he shot himself in the head in a bathroom at his home in Rancho Palos Verdes, California. In addition to the U.S. military newspaper, Haynes had worked for the Los Angeles City News Service, *New York Post*, *Los Angeles Daily Mirror* and two smaller California newspapers. He co-founded the *Los Angeles Magazine* and taught news writing at the University of Southern California and California State University at Northridge.

Sungyung Chang, 76, a longtime member of *Time* magazine's Tokyo staff, died of pneumonia Sept. 15. Under the byline S. Chang, he also wrote for Tokyo English-language newspapers, and in his later years was director of Sogetsu Hall of flower arrangement.

NEW BOOKS

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literal truth and isolate themselves as much as possible from the secular world." The brothers grew up together in New York City but drifted apart shortly after Tony turned 21 and "decided to devote his life to God," Joshua writes. "For years my brother's religious transformation filled me with a rage and embarrassment so profound that I struggle even today to understand it....His embrace of fundamentalism marked a total rejection of who our family was—secular, liberal agnostics." After living on four continents, Joshua returned to New



Josh Hammer (left) and brother Tuvia.

York City from Buenos Aires in 1997, and "I telephoned my brother [in suburban Monsey, N.Y.], and heard his voice for the first time." The author describes their reunion. Joshua asks to spend time with his younger brother. "My brother was hesitant at first, admitting he was concerned about the impact I might have on his children. But I assured him that I would live by his rules." Joshua then is introduced to "the settlement of Tosh, a highly devout Hasidic community on a windswept prairie northwest of Montreal. ...[practicing] Hasidism, a mystical and pietistic movement that preserved the exact customs and dress of its 18th-century Polish origins."

• Born in Paris in 1893, **Freya Stark** was physically scarred at the age of 13 when she visited the family's rug and basket factory and her long hair was caught in a machine. Half her scalp and her right ear were ripped off, her right eyelid pulled away and tissue around her temple exposed. Later the young Italian doctor to whom she was engaged left her for a former sweetheart. After those setbacks, Stark went out to the Middle East in 1927 at age 33 to explore deserts and mountains, and she made the region her lifelong passion. Her adventures are described in "Passionate Nomad: The Life of Freya Stark" [New York: Random House] by **Jane Fletcher Geniesse**, a magazine writer and former



New York Times reporter. Stark rode a donkey to Jebel Druze, the mountainous stronghold of the Druze Islamic sect in southern Syria; explored the ruined fortress castles of the Assassins, the Muslim sect that waged war against the Sunni population in the 13th century; worked as a British propagandist in Cairo during World War II; won a prize from the Royal Geographical Society for her writings and map corrections; and was designated a dame commander of the British Empire. In 1934, Stark published her first book, "The Valley of the Assassins and Other Persian Travels," and she wrote more than 20 other books. The biographer writes that Stark "endured all kinds of physical discomfort, from hunger and thirst to being crawled over by fleas and flies....deeply moved by sweeping vistas in uncharted territory, awed by the fading footprints of history on ruined cities and especially impressed by the wisdom she found in cultures vastly different from her own." *New York Times* book reviewer **Richard Bernstein** commented: "After the war Stark became a kind of grande dame, writing several travel books, especially about Turkey. She became a friend of the Queen Mother. At the age of 54 she married one of the dashing army officers she had met on her exotic travels years before, and only after the marriage discovered that he was homosexual. Stark died in 1993 in Italy at the age of 100. That entire century of fascinating life is encapsulated in Ms. Geniesse's commendable book."

• One day in 1992 while visiting Venice, **Henry Grunwald** started to pour water from a pitcher but missed the glass. The former editor-in-chief of *Time*, Inc., earlier *Time* magazine's foreign editor, was examined by an optician who recommended he see a medical doctor. Grunwald, who turned 77 on Dec. 3, was diagnosed with macular degeneration, a disease of the central retina that affects 15 million Americans and is the No. 1 cause of blindness among the elderly. He has been losing his eyesight ever since, and he writes about it in "Twilight: Losing Sight, Gaining Insight" [New York: Knopf]. "I can see a face, but I see it in a blurred way, a white area," Grunwald

told **Dinitia Smith** of *The New York Times*. "I can hear you smiling, but I cannot see it." An account of his eye trouble, Grunwald's book also traces the history of eyesight. He writes that in ancient Egypt, Sumer and Babylon, surgeons who bungled an eye operation could have their hands cut off, in India their noses cut off. Born in Vienna, Grunwald escaped with his family from Nazi-occupied Europe, arrived in the United States at age 17, was hired as a copy boy at *Time* in his early 20s and worked his way up the editorial ladder. After retiring from the publishing company in 1987, Grunwald was U.S. ambassador to Austria, 1988-1990.



Henry Grunwald

• **Philip Caputo** was a U.S. Marine in Vietnam, a *Chicago Tribune* reporter, a correspondent in Beirut and Moscow, author of the Vietnam memoir "A Rumor of War" [1977], and winner of an OPC Award and a Pulitzer Prize. In "The Voyage" [New York: Knopf], he spins a strange tale of a seafaring journey. The novel relates how a Boston millionaire in June 1901 puts his three sons, ages 16, 15 and 13, on a two-mast schooner moored off Maine, hands each boy \$10 and tells them: "You boys are to leave as soon as I am off this boat. You are not to show your faces until September. That money should last. If it doesn't, don't ask for more, because you won't get it. Understood?" They sail south along the coast of North America, pick up a friend as navigator, survive storms and finally, with no money left, are shipwrecked off the coast of Cuba. The U.S. legation in Havana cables their father for help. In a telegram, he replies: "Look not to Isaiah but to Corinthians for passage home." Reviewing the book in *The New York Times*, **Christopher Lehmann-Haupt** wrote: "Consistent with what turns out to be the theme of the novel, skeletons turn up in the closet of a family....But it's all a bit too much, absurd in its compression, gothic in its extremeness and insufficiently connected to the sea journey that precedes it."



Jane Fletcher Geniesse



Philip Caputo

New Books

• During 50 years with *Time*, *Life* and *Fortune*, OPC President **Roy Rowan** covered wars, governments, diplomacy and other events that fall on a foreign correspondent's platter. He has written books on the capture of an American cargo ship by Cambodian gunboats, management styles, powerful people and White House dogs. Now in "Surfcaster's Quest: Seeking Stripers, Blues and Solitude at the Edge of the Surging Sea" [New York: The Lyons Press], Rowan turns to one of his passions: fishing along the shorelines of Block Island off the coast of Rhode Island. "This is not simply a fishing book," Rowan told the *Bulletin*. "It's about courage, contemplation, solitude and the appreciation of nature. Angling enthusiasts have maintained for centuries that fishing is more of a religion than sport, though not the kind practiced under a church steeple. I maintain that surfcasters, with their own devout followers, comprise a special sect. They may be a less pious bunch than fly fishermen, but they are an adventurous, feeling group of outdoors lovers who are as deeply moved by the sun, moon, and stars as they are by their desire to catch fish." Rowan dedicated his fishing book to his wife with these words: "For Helen, my best catch." In a footnote, this author from the old school addresses a new writing style: "Throughout this book my use of the term *fishermen*, rather than *fisherpersons*, is intended to include both male and female anglers."

• Drawing on years of reporting from Tokyo and Detroit, OPC member **Edwin**

M. Reingold examines one of Japan's most successful automobile manufacturers in "Toyota: People, Ideas and the Challenge of the New" [London: Penguin U.K.]. In an October article on company histories, *The Economist* wrote: "A final question about company biographies is whether they should be content with good reporting or should aim for a more historical and explanatory approach. Edwin Reingold's foot-in-door account of the rise of Toyota, Japan's most successful company bar none, represents hard-scrabble reporting at its factual best. Never for a moment do you doubt the accuracy or the relevance and context of the material the author brings to his tale. Having spent many years as *Time* magazine's bureau chief in Tokyo and having done a stint in Detroit, Mr. Reingold knows cars and Japan with an intimacy and insight few academic biographers and historians can match. But there lies a weakness of the journalistic approach to corporate biography. The insistence on reportage, at the expense of interpretation or even opinion, leaves the reader knowing almost too much of the how and where and when, but not quite enough of the why."

• Two books written by OPC member **Ruth Gruber**, 88, on World War II refugees are being reissued this year and next by Times Books after she revised both volumes with new material. Republished this year, "Exodus 1947: The Ship That Launched a Nation," is an account of a ship holding 4,500 Jewish refugees bound for Israel in defiance of the British blockade of Palestine.

Publisher's Weekly commented in October: "It seems hard to believe today, in a time when the media offer blanket coverage of refugee crises, but Gruber was the only journalist—not to mention the only female journalist—to cover this incredible journey." Scheduled for release in April is "Haven: The Unknown Story of 1000 World War II Refugees," an account of a secret 1944 mission ordered by President Franklin D. Roosevelt and led by Gruber in which a shipload of refugees were taken from Italy to the United States. The book includes a new introduction by non-fiction author **Dava Sobel**, Gruber's niece. A CBS miniseries based on "Haven" is scheduled to air in May. Author of 13 books and still a working journalist and public speaker, Gruber, a former correspondent for the *New York Post* and *New York Herald Tribune*, was making a 19-city book tour this autumn, and the OPC is planning a Gruber book night for next year. She told *Publisher's Weekly* that she covered World War II at a time when "the men didn't think women were smart or brave. I was the maverick in my family. They couldn't control me."

• For nearly two decades, **Joshua Hammer**, a *Newsweek* correspondent in Africa, South America and the Balkans and now reporting from Berlin, almost never saw nor spoke to his younger brother, Tony. In "Chosen by God: A Brother's Journey" [Hyperion], Joshua explores why his brother, who now calls himself by the Jewish name Tuvia, took refuge in the "ultra-Orthodox fringes of Judaism, whose adherents maintain that every word of the Old Testament is the

(Continued on Page 11)

SANDY UNGAR

Director

Voice of America

Monday, December 13
at 6:00pm

OPC HOLIDAY PARTY

Will Be Rescheduled
as a Valentine's Day Party
on February 14, 2000

The Overseas Press Club of America
40 West 45 Street
New York, NY 10036 USA